



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

School Committee Minutes 02-27-2001

ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 27, 2001
7:30 PM

Present: **Wm. A. Carey, Jr., Chair** **Martin J. Thrope**
 Joani LaMachia, Vice-Chair **Denis J. Sullivan**
 Michael T. Healy, Secretary **Barbara C. Goodman**
David W. McKenna

Superintendent Kathleen Donovan, Director of Special Education, Marilyn Bisbicos

Absent: **Assistant Supt. Joanne Gurry**

Call to order: 7:40 PM

Public Participation

Resident Trish Orlovsky addressed the Committee relative to the support of the letter from the Human Rights Commission to the Boys Scouts of America (that stated "our profound disappointment with regard to your policy which excludes both gay scout and homosexual scout leaders) that had been endorsed by the School Committee at its last meeting. Ms. Orlovsky stated that after investigating the roles and responsibilities of the school committee that they (School Committee) had "limited responsibilities" and had in fact overstepped their role in supporting the letter. She requested that in the future the committee carefully review such issues before endorsement.

Secretary's Report

Minutes for approval:

On a Motion by Mr. Healy and seconded by Ms. LaMachia it was
Voted to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 9, 2001. Unanimous

On a motion by Mr. Healy and seconded by Ms. LaMachia it was
Voted to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 23, 2001. Unanimous

On a motion by Mr. Healy and seconded by Ms. LaMachia it was
Voted to approve the executive session minutes of January 9, 2001. Unanimous

On a motion by Mr. Healy and seconded by Mr. Thrope it was
Voted to approve the executive session minutes of January 23, 2001. Unanimous

O a motion by Mr. Healy and seconded by Mr. Thrope it was
Voted to approve the executive session minutes of September 26, 2000.
5-2 (Mr. Carey & Mr. Healy abstain)

On a motion by Mr. Healy and seconded by Ms. LaMachia it was
Voted to approve the executive session minutes of October 24, 2000. Unanimous

On a motion by Mr. Healy and seconded by Mr. Thrope it was
Voted to approve the executive session minutes of November 14, 2000.
6-1 (Mr. Sullivan abstain)

Mr. Healy reviewed correspondence. Mr. Healy noted that in the letter received from Town Counsel John Maher relative to the ruling of School Committee vacancies, a statute was not referenced. Mr. Healy requested that the minutes reflect that Section 11 of the Massachusetts

General Laws addresses that issue.

The Committee will send a letter to the boys and girls ice hockey teams congratulating them on their season.

Mr. Thrope asked that MCAS support be on the agenda in the future.

Mr. Thrope announced that he would collect donations from Committee Members for an advertisement in the upcoming play sponsored by the Performing Arts Department.

Mr. Sullivan apologized for missing the last meeting and the important items discussed at that meeting, especially the endorsement of the Human Rights Commission letter to the Boys Scouts of America.

Focus Group/AHS Principal

Supt. Donovan noted that a focus group had already been held with the staff at AHS and with the school council members. The tentative date for a focus group with parents and community members is March 19th.

Gus Martinson (HRO) led the focus group with the Superintendent. Committee Members were asked what qualities they are looking for in a principal. Responses included:

An academic leader

Loves kids

Strong people skills

Brings community together

Respects tradition

An innovator

Can handle & manage rapid change

Demonstrated potential

Articulate

Commitment to diversity

Collegial management style

Scheduling expert

Ability to set a self limit (ability to say no)

A good balance in their own lives

Good delegation skills

Respect of the staff

A good sales rep for public education

Supt. Donovan added that that person should have an appreciation for the extra-curricula, the athletic, the social, and the musical component of the school. Gus noted that we now have 20 candidates for the principal position and 450 resumes for teaching positions on file.

Report of PTBC

Mrs. Donovan reported:

“ **Bid Process** – Peirce School bids will be going out on March 8; on April 5th the sub bids will be received, and on April 19th the final opening of the bids will take place. The plan is that the day after school closes in June everything will be taken out of the school and the building will be torn down.

“ **Hardy Elementary School** - Mr. Thrope reported that the PTBC is working closely with the contractors and noted that this is the best contractor that the town has worked with to date. He stated that with a 1998 base contract and changes at 2001 prices costs, are an issue. But the PTBC demands that the job be done right.

“ **Special Town Meeting** –Mrs. Donovan reported that there will be a special town meeting within the confines of the regular town meeting. In the special meeting there will be a warrant article to appropriate money to move forward with the Pierce School and also to ask for

additional funding for the Hardy School –some of it will be from the extra money left over from the Brackett project.

“ **SBAB Waiver** – The State has changed its law on reimbursement so that if the Town is aware ahead of time that the square footage cost will be higher than expected it must request a waiver for an increased amount from the State. Mrs. Donovan along with Mr. Cole, (PTBC Chair) will be sending a letter asking the State to increase the amount of money allocated for the Peirce School.

Ms. Goodman requested that as a committee we send a letter to other communities asking them to join us in communicating to our legislators concerns over square footage cost in rebuilding/renovating our schools. Mrs. Donovan responded that the figure is set for the entire State and she believes that we may be in a stronger position to seek a waiver individually but would be happy to do more research.

Approval of Funding Request/Board of Selectmen

Supt. Donovan reported that once a year RCN turns over 5% of their income for use of Town/School property. The Board of Selectmen will turn over the education money once we submit a request to them on how we would use that money. The Superintendent asked the Committees’ support to purchase computers, the CCC software, and their licenses. The software will be used at the secondary level for individualized programs in both math and English for ninth and tenth grades.

On a motion by Mr. Healy and seconded by Mr. Sullivan it was:

Voted to support the Superintendent’s recommendation to submit to the Board of Selectmen a funding request for \$22,000.00 to purchase computers and their software. Unanimous

MCAS Update

“ **District Curriculum Accommodation Plan** - Special Education Director, Marilyn Bisbicos informed the Committee that the Board of Education passed its final version of new 766 regulations. Part of the regulations is the provision of the District Curriculum Accommodation Plan, a requirement of every school to assist principals in providing for the needs for all students. The plan must assist staff to help analyze what services and supports need to be provided for by the school.

Governor Cellucci’s Budget Recommendation

Chapter 70 money is increasing by 5.7%, the foundation enrollment has increased by 1.2%, and the foundation budget as submitted showed an

increase over 6%. Although the figures sound good, Mrs. Donovan believes that the budget is not balanced and that the figures will lower dramatically once it goes through the House and Senate. The Superintendent hopes to receive more money from the kindergarten grant to add an additional teacher. The all day kindergarten program received \$160,000.00 in grant money last year and is reapplying this year; but even with that we will need another \$130,000.00 to pay for the program.

The School Budget will be presented to the Finance Committee on March 21st and Mrs. Donovan asked that all members attend if possible.

Public Hearings/Budget/Redistricting

The Committee agreed to hold the public hearing on the budget within its regular meeting on March 27, 2001. Mrs. Donovan will give an update on redistricting at its meeting on March 13th.

RECESS

Warrant Articles

On a motion by Mr. McKenna and seconded by Mr. Thorpe
Voted not to support Warrant Article # 42 Request for Legislation/
Education Policy/Town Meeting. RC: Unanimous.

On a motion by Mr. McKenna and seconded by Mr. Sullivan
Voted to request a list of the 10 registered voters that filed Article #42. Unanimous

On a motion by Ms. Goodman and seconded by Ms. LaMachia
Voted to support Warrant Article #47. Unanimous

On a motion by Mr. Sullivan and seconded by Mr. Healy
Voted no action on Warrant article #48, Early Retirement. Unanimous.

On a motion by Mr. Healy and seconded by Ms. LaMachia
Voted to support Warrant Article # 49, Education Reform. Unanimous

On a motion by Mr. Sullivan and seconded by Ms. Goodman
Voted to support Warrant Article # 50, Special Education. Unanimous

On a motion by Mr. Thrope and seconded by Mr. McKenna
Voted to support Warrant Article # 51 Section 1F, 1G, and Section 2A. Unanimous
Mr. Thrope asked to speak to the motion. He continued by stating that after 3 years of all day kindergarten fees that the Committee has an obligation to do everything within its power to work towards no fee and believes that this year should be the one. Mr. Healy stated that he believes that we promised the public that parents would not be paying for all day kindergarten at this point and suggested that we look into different areas of reduction in the budget to fund the program. Mrs. Donovan stated that we are currently in the process of registering incoming kindergarten students and must be honest with parents that at this point they must be informed of the possibility of a fee. The fee would be set the same as in the current year \$500.00.

On a motion by Mr. Thrope and seconded by Ms. Goodman
Voted to support Warrant Article #55, Deed Restriction/Appropriation/
Peirce Field. Unanimous.

On a motion by Mr. Sullivan and seconded by Mr. Healy
Voted to support Warrant Article #68, Appropriation/Town Budgets and the Education Budget in the amount of \$31,470,185.00.
Unanimous

Mr. Thrope asked to revisit the budget issue and discuss all available options.

On warrant article #75 memorial at Peirce School, Mrs. Donovan stated that the School Committee has not been approached and that she will obtain more information on said article.

Ms. Goodman's Motion MOVED to support Warrant Article #84, Appropriation/School Committee Salary. Mr. McKenna seconded for discussion only. Mr. Thrope stated that it would be wise to deal with and discuss the details of the proposal. Motion withdrawn to be taken up at another time.

On a motion by Mr. Thrope and seconded by Mr. Sullivan
Voted to support Warrant Article #88, Appropriation/Thompson & Stratton Schools. RC: Unanimous
Mr. Thrope noted that we need to finish the job and keep things moving.

On a motion by Ms. Goodman and seconded by Mr. Sullivan
Voted to support Warrant Article #89, Appropriation/Peirce School. Unanimous.

On a motion by Mr. Thrope and seconded by Mr. McKenna
Voted to support Warrant Article #90, Appropriation/Hardy School. Unanimous.

On a motion by Mr. Thrope and seconded by Mr. Healy

Voted that the Committee approve those articles in the warrant for the two Special Town Meetings that correspond in substance to articles already approved for the regular town meeting. Unanimous.

AHS/2001 Youth Risk Survey

Mrs. Donovan reported that because we accept health grant money from the State we are required, when asked, to participate in the State Youth Risk Survey.

School Council Meeting & Report

Ms. LaMachia stated that the joint workshop with the School Committee and School Councils would take place on March 13th. The focus of the workshop is to review the proposed calendar and an outline of the goal setting process.

Enrollment Statistical Information

Supt. Donovan provided Committee Members with a comparison of EDCO communities: (Acton, Arlington, Bedford, Belmont, Boxboro, Carlisle, Concord, Lincoln, Littleton Maynard, Nashoba, Newton, Sudbury, Waltham, Watertown) that outlines how we work within the confines of our budget.

Mrs. Donovan reviewed student enrollments, class size, school hours per year, early release schedule, and the amount of time spent with specialists. Mrs. Donovan noted that kindergarten age in Arlington is currently 5 years of age by December 31st. She believes that issue may have to be revisited, Belmont has a cut off date of September 1st and Bedford has a cut off age of August 31st. Overall the Superintendent believes that we match up extremely well with other communities.

Report of Subcommittees

Policy & Procedures - Mr. Healy reported that the subcommittee met earlier today and completed sections E & F in the policy manual. The next two sections will be mailed to Committee members before the next meeting on March 6th at 3:45 PM. Mr. Healy recommended that the MASC recognition policy be adopted; in it the policy allows procedures to be established by the Superintendent and the Committee. Mr. Healy emphasized that the goal is to approve the entire manual upon its completion.

Task Force on Safety - Ms. LaMachia reported on the items discussed at its meeting today. The subcommittee recommended approval by the full committee of the **school safety reference handbook**.

On a motion by Mr. Healy and seconded by Mr. Sullivan

Voted to approve the **School Safety Reference Handbook** as amended. Unanimous

Safe School Program Guide was compiled by Judie Phelps, any suggestions or feedback should go to Judie within the week.

On a motion by Ms. Goodman and seconded by Mr. Healy

Voted to approve the Safe Schools Program Guide pending any comments or changes from the committee. Unanimous

New Business

Mrs. Donovan asked the Committee for their support in asking the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association Football Committee (MIAA) for a reconsideration of their vote to move the GBL from its current standing in Division 1 to Division 2. The Superintendent explained that every four years the MIAA examines the divisions of football teams, Arlington has always been in division 1 (which is based on enrollments) and she believes they still belong in that division. Supt. Donovan and Mr. McCarthy will send a letter asking for reconsideration of their vote. Mr. Carey stated that he fully supports the Superintendent and Mr. McCarthy in whatever efforts they would like to take.

On a motion by Mr. Sullivan and seconded by Ms. LaMachia

Voted to support and endorse the Superintendents recommendation to write a letter to the MIAA asking reconsideration of their recent vote in placing Arlington's football team in division 2. RC. Unanimous.

Rotary Breakfast will be held on April 25th at 7:30 AM, all members are invited.

Legislative Hearings on MCAS will be held on Monday, March 5th. MASC will have 3 individuals testifying on behalf of Arlington's Position Paper.

Technology Subcommittee – Mr. Thrope suggested that for future discussion the Committee consider eliminating the Technology Subcommittee. Mr. Thrope continued by stating that technology in the APS has been integrated enough to fall under the Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee.

On a motion by Mr. Thrope and seconded by Mr. Sullivan it was

Voted that the School Committee eliminates the Technology Subcommittee. Unanimous

No executive session

On a motion by Ms. Goodman and seconded by Mr. Sullivan it was

Voted to adjourn at 10:50 PM

**ARLINGTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 27, 2001
7:30 PM**

Present: Wm. A. Carey, Jr., Chair Martin J. Thrope
 Joani LaMachia, Vice-Chair Denis J. Sullivan
 Michael T. Healy, Secretary Barbara C. Goodman
David W. McKenna

Superintendent Kathleen Donovan, Director of Special Education, Marilyn Bisbicos

Absent: Assistant Supt. Joanne Gurry

Call to order: 7:40 PM

Public Participation

Resident Trish Orlovsky addressed the Committee relative to the support of the letter from the Human Rights Commission to the Boys Scouts of America (that stated "our profound disappointment with regard to your policy which excludes both gay scout and homosexual scout leaders) that had been endorsed by the School Committee at its last meeting. Ms. Orlovsky stated that after investigating the roles and responsibilities of the school committee that they (School Committee) had "limited responsibilities" and had in fact overstepped their role in supporting the letter. She requested that in the future the committee carefully review such issues before endorsement.

Secretary's Report

Minutes for approval:

On a Motion by Mr. Healy and seconded by Ms. LaMachia it was
Voted to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 9, 2001. Unanimous

On a motion by Mr. Healy and seconded by Ms. LaMachia it was
Voted to approve the regular meeting minutes of January 23, 2001. Unanimous

On a motion by Mr. Healy and seconded by Ms. LaMachia it was
Voted to approve the executive session minutes of January 9, 2001. Unanimous

On a motion by Mr. Healy and seconded by Mr. Thrope it was
Voted to approve the executive session minutes of January 23, 2001. Unanimous

O a motion by Mr. Healy and seconded by Mr. Thrope it was
Voted to approve the executive session minutes of September 26, 2000.
5-2 (Mr. Carey & Mr. Healy abstain)

On a motion by Mr. Healy and seconded by Ms. LaMachia it was
Voted to approve the executive session minutes of October 24, 2000. Unanimous

On a motion by Mr. Healy and seconded by Mr. Thrope it was
Voted to approve the executive session minutes of November 14, 2000.
6-1 (Mr. Sullivan abstain)

Mr. Healy reviewed correspondence. Mr. Healy noted that in the letter received from Town Counsel John Maher relative to the ruling of School Committee vacancies, a statue was not referenced. Mr. Healy requested that the minutes reflect that Section 11 of the Massachusetts General Laws addresses that issue.

The Committee will send a letter to the boys and girls ice hockey teams congratulating them on their season.

Mr. Thrope asked that MCAS support be on the agenda in the future.

Mr. Thrope announced that he would collect donations from Committee Members for an advertisement in the upcoming play sponsored by the Performing Arts Department.

Mr. Sullivan apologized for missing the last meeting and the important items discussed at that meeting, especially the endorsement of the Human Rights Commission letter to the Boys Scouts of America.

Focus Group/AHS Principal

Supt. Donovan noted that a focus group had already been held with the staff at AHS and with the school council members. The tentative date for a focus group with parents and community members is March 19th.

Gus Martinson (HRO) led the focus group with the Superintendent. Committee Members were asked what qualities they are looking for in a principal. Responses included:

An academic leader

Loves kids

Strong people skills

Brings community together

Respects tradition

An innovator

Can handle & manage rapid change

Demonstrated potential

Articulate

Commitment to diversity

Collegial management style

Scheduling expert

Ability to set a self limit (ability to say no)

A good balance in their own lives

Good delegation skills

Respect of the staff

A good sales rep for public education

Supt. Donovan added that that person should have an appreciation for the extra-curricula, the athletic, the social, and the musical component of the school. Gus noted that we now have 20 candidates for the principal position and 450 resumes for teaching positions on file.

Report of PTBC

Mrs. Donovan reported:

“ **Bid Process** – Peirce School bids will be going out on March 8; on April 5th the sub bids will be received, and on April 19th the final opening of the bids will take place. The plan is that the day after school closes in June everything will be taken out of the school and the building will be torn down.

“ **Hardy Elementary School** - Mr. Thrope reported that the PTBC is working closely with the contractors and noted that this is the best contractor that the town has worked with to date. He stated that with a 1998 base contract and changes at 2001 prices costs, are an issue. But the PTBC demands that the job be done right.

“ **Special Town Meeting** –Mrs. Donovan reported that there will be a special town meeting within the confines of the regular town meeting. In the special meeting there will be a warrant article to appropriate money to move forward with the Pierce School and also to ask for

additional funding for the Hardy School –some of it will be from the extra money left over from the Brackett project.

“ **SBAB Waiver** – The State has changed its law on reimbursement so that if the Town is aware ahead of time that the square footage cost will be higher than expected it must request a waiver for an increased amount from the State. Mrs. Donovan along with Mr. Cole, (PTBC Chair) will be sending a letter asking the State to increase the amount of money allocated for the Peirce School.

Ms. Goodman requested that as a committee we send a letter to other communities asking them to join us in communicating to our legislators concerns over square footage cost in rebuilding/renovating our schools. Mrs. Donovan responded that the figure is set for the entire State and she believes that we may be in a stronger position to seek a waiver individually but would be happy to do more research.

Approval of Funding Request/Board of Selectmen

Supt. Donovan reported that once a year RCN turns over 5% of their income for use of Town/School property. The Board of Selectmen will

turn over the education money once we submit a request to them on how we would use that money. The Superintendent asked the Committees' support to purchase computers, the CCC software, and their licenses. The software will be used at the secondary level for individualized programs in both math and English for ninth and tenth grades.

On a motion by Mr. Healy and seconded by Mr. Sullivan it was:

Voted to support the Superintendent's recommendation to submit to the Board of Selectmen a funding request for \$22,000.00 to purchase computers and their software. Unanimous

MCAS Update

District Curriculum Accommodation Plan - Special Education Director, Marilyn Bisbicos informed the Committee that the Board of Education passed its final version of new 766 regulations. Part of the regulations is the provision of the District Curriculum Accommodation Plan, a requirement of every school to assist principals in providing for the needs for all students. The plan must assist staff to help analyze what services and supports need to be provided for by the school.

Governor Cellucci's Budget Recommendation

Chapter 70 money is increasing by 5.7%, the foundation enrollment has increased by 1.2%, and the foundation budget as submitted showed an increase over 6%. Although the figures sound good, Mrs. Donovan believes that the budget is not balanced and that the figures will lower dramatically once it goes through the House and Senate. The Superintendent hopes to receive more money from the kindergarten grant to add an additional teacher. The all day kindergarten program received \$160,000.00 in grant money last year and is reapplying this year; but even with that we will need another \$130,000.00 to pay for the program.

The School Budget will be presented to the Finance Committee on March 21st and Mrs. Donovan asked that all members attend if possible.

Public Hearings/Budget/Redistricting

The Committee agreed to hold the public hearing on the budget within its regular meeting on March 27, 2001. Mrs. Donovan will give an update on redistricting at its meeting on March 13th.

RECESS

Warrant Articles

On a motion by Mr. McKenna and seconded by Mr. Thorpe

**Voted not to support Warrant Article # 42 Request for Legislation/
Education Policy/Town Meeting. RC: Unanimous.**

On a motion by Mr. McKenna and seconded by Mr. Sullivan

Voted to request a list of the 10 registered voters that filed Article #42. Unanimous

On a motion by Ms. Goodman and seconded by Ms. LaMachia

Voted to support Warrant Article #47. Unanimous

On a motion by Mr. Sullivan and seconded by Mr. Healy

Voted no action on Warrant article #48, Early Retirement. Unanimous.

On a motion by Mr. Healy and seconded by Ms. LaMachia

Voted to support Warrant Article # 49, Education Reform. Unanimous

On a motion by Mr. Sullivan and seconded by Ms. Goodman

Voted to support Warrant Article # 50, Special Education. Unanimous

On a motion by Mr. Thrope and seconded by Mr. McKenna

Voted to support Warrant Article # 51 Section 1F, 1G, and Section 2A. Unanimous

Mr. Thrope asked to speak to the motion. He continued by stating that after 3 years of all day kindergarten fees that the Committee has an obligation to do everything within its power to work towards no fee and believes that this year should be the one. Mr. Healy stated that he believes that we promised the public that parents would not be paying for all day kindergarten at this point and suggested that we look into different areas of reduction in the budget to fund the program. Mrs. Donovan stated that we are currently in the process of registering incoming kindergarten students and must be honest with parents that at this point they must be informed of the possibility of a fee. The fee would be set the same as in the current year \$500.00.

On a motion by Mr. Thrope and seconded by Ms. Goodman

**Voted to support Warrant Article #55, Deed Restriction/Appropriation/
Peirce Field. Unanimous.**

On a motion by Mr. Sullivan and seconded by Mr. Healy

**Voted to support Warrant Article #68, Appropriation/Town Budgets and the Education Budget in the amount of \$31,470,185.00.
Unanimous**

Mr. Thrope asked to revisit the budget issue and discuss all available options.

On warrant article #75 memorial at Peirce School, Mrs. Donovan stated that the School Committee has not been approached and that she will obtain more information on said article.

Ms. Goodman's Motion MOVED to support Warrant Article #84, Appropriation/School Committee Salary. Mr. McKenna seconded for discussion only. Mr. Thrope stated that it would be wise to deal with and discuss the details of the proposal. Motion withdrawn to be taken up at another time.

**On a motion by Mr. Thrope and seconded by Mr. Sullivan
Voted to support Warrant Article #88, Appropriation/Thompson & Stratton Schools. RC: Unanimous**
Mr. Thrope noted that we need to finish the job and keep things moving.

**On a motion by Ms. Goodman and seconded by Mr. Sullivan
Voted to support Warrant Article #89, Appropriation/Peirce School. Unanimous.**

**On a motion by Mr. Thrope and seconded by Mr. McKenna
Voted to support Warrant Article #90, Appropriation/Hardy School. Unanimous.**

**On a motion by Mr. Thrope and seconded by Mr. Healy
Voted that the Committee approve those articles in the warrant for the two Special Town Meetings that correspond in substance to articles already approved for the regular town meeting. Unanimous.**

AHS/2001 Youth Risk Survey

Mrs. Donovan reported that because we accept health grant money from the State we are required, when asked, to participate in the State Youth Risk Survey.

School Council Meeting & Report

Ms. LaMachia stated that the joint workshop with the School Committee and School Councils would take place on March 13th. The focus of the workshop is to review the proposed calendar and an outline of the goal setting process.

Enrollment Statistical Information

Supt. Donovan provided Committee Members with a comparison of EDCO communities: (Acton, Arlington, Bedford, Belmont, Boxboro, Carlisle, Concord, Lincoln, Littleton Maynard, Nashoba, Newton, Sudbury, Waltham, Watertown) that outlines how we work within the confines of our budget.

Mrs. Donovan reviewed student enrollments, class size, school hours per year, early release schedule, and the amount of time spent with specialists. Mrs. Donovan noted that kindergarten age in Arlington is currently 5 years of age by December 31st. She believes that issue may have to be revisited, Belmont has a cut off date of September 1st and Bedford has a cut off age of August 31st. Overall the Superintendent believes that we match up extremely well with other communities.

Report of Subcommittees

Policy & Procedures - Mr. Healy reported that the subcommittee met earlier today and completed sections E & F in the policy manual. The next two sections will be mailed to Committee members before the next meeting on March 6th at 3:45 PM. Mr. Healy recommended that the MASC recognition policy be adopted; in it the policy allows procedures to be established by the Superintendent and the Committee. Mr. Healy emphasized that the goal is to approve the entire manual upon its completion.

Task Force on Safety - Ms. LaMachia reported on the items discussed at its meeting today. The subcommittee recommended approval by the full committee of the **school safety reference handbook**.

On a motion by Mr. Healy and seconded by Mr. Sullivan

Voted to approve the **School Safety Reference Handbook** as amended. Unanimous

Safe School Program Guide was compiled by Judie Phelps, any suggestions or feedback should go to Judie within the week.

On a motion by Ms. Goodman and seconded by Mr. Healy

Voted to approve the Safe Schools Program Guide pending any comments or changes from the committee. Unanimous

New Business

Mrs. Donovan asked the Committee for their support in asking the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association Football Committee (MIAA) for a reconsideration of their vote to move the GBL from its current standing in Division 1 to Division 2. The Superintendent explained that every four years the MIAA examines the divisions of football teams, Arlington has always been in division 1 (which is based on enrollments) and she believes they still belong in that division. Supt. Donovan and Mr. McCarthy will send a letter asking for reconsideration of their vote. Mr. Carey stated that he fully supports the Superintendent and Mr. McCarthy in whatever efforts they would like to take.

On a motion by Mr. Sullivan and seconded by Ms. LaMachia

Voted to support and endorse the Superintendents recommendation to write a letter to the MIAA asking reconsideration of their recent vote in placing Arlington's football team in division 2. RC. Unanimous.

Rotary Breakfast will be held on April 25th at 7:30 AM, all members are invited.

Legislative Hearings on MCAS will be held on Monday, March 5th. MASC will have 3 individuals testifying on behalf of Arlington's Position Paper.

Technology Subcommittee – Mr. Thrope suggested that for future discussion the Committee consider eliminating the Technology Subcommittee. Mr. Thrope continued by stating that technology in the APS has been integrated enough to fall under the Curriculum & Instruction Subcommittee.

On a motion by Mr. Thrope and seconded by Mr. Sullivan it was

Voted that the School Committee eliminates the Technology Subcommittee. Unanimous

No executive session

On a motion by Ms. Goodman and seconded by Mr. Sullivan it was

Voted to adjourn at 10:50 PM